

JUBILATION!

'Jubilation' is a project that would focus on discovering, celebrating, and recording the stories, and achievements of community members/groups that use the library service within 22 North West library venues. If selected, the process will be facilitated by the artist Thomas Daniel Byrne and would take place in April/May 2022 as part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Initial engagement will commence with the artist conducting a day-long visit to all the libraries involved in the project. The artist will bring with them a portable 'jubilation station' which will consist of a small, easy to move bench and shelving unit on castor wheels. Throughout the day the artist will interact with individuals using the library or with community groups that meet in the library space. Through a selection of guided exercises and good audience rapport the artist will encourage participants to write down their own stories of jubilation/celebration. The only parameter they will be given is that the events they describe must have occurred during Elizabeth II's reign. (1952 – 2022)



A rough concept of what the Jubilation Station could look like.

The artist is also open to using microphones to record any participant's stories if they find this easier than writing it down.

Once the artist has gathered stories from all of the participating libraries they will review all of the work and with the help of a graphic designer (Alexis Mount of Violet Mount) and create a book of jublations. This book will contain as many of the stories captured during the library visits as possible. The book will be arranged by year, attempting to find as many stories as possible that span the long reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

One copy of the final 'Jubilation!' book will be given to each library as part of the culmination of the project. The results will also be scanned and shared on Borrowbox so that it is as accessible to as many people as possible.

This project will have a strong emphasis on celebration and focusing on the positive. The workshop stage will encourage participants to write about their own life achievements, and share them with others. The end result will be an anthology that celebrates the various communities that used the libraries throughout the North West.

Please note, these ideas are in the very early stages of development. The project may change slightly prior to being delivered and the artist is open to taking ideas on board from the participating libraries to make the project best suit their needs.

About the artist:

Thomas Daniel Byrne is a freelance performer, musician, and puppeteer who has been creating his own work for the past 8 years. He is a likable and affable workshop facilitator when it comes to activities such as creative writing and is an excellent project manager. He has recently completed two large scale projects on behalf of Tameside Council in partnership with Droylsden Library which both involved planning school workshops, designing an art trail around the town centre, and delivering performances/a half term activity day in and around the library space. He has experience handling and managing project budgets and knows how to work to a deadline, making him well suited to this commission.